THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sir, Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) has provided assistance in the form of fifteen High Frequency fixed/mobile wireless sets and spare parts worth US dollar 73,485 during November, 1993.

(c) FAO mobileses International Donor Assistance to improve the Locust control capabilities of locust affected countries. Assistance by Australian International Development Assistance Bureau was provided to improve our communication network.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) Wireless sets are used for timely transmission of locust information for organising ground and aerial control operations.

Series of earthquakes since September 30, 1993 quakes in Maharashtra

2108. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Latur-Osmanabad belt in Maharashtra has continued to receive a series of earthquakes even after September 30, 1993 quake, though with milder intensity;

(b) if so, what further damage to life and property has been caused by the frequent tremors since the devastating quake of September 30, 1993;

(c) whether the frequent earth quakes have kept lacs of inhabitants of the area out in the open fields for months together; and

(d) what steps have been taken and are being taken with or without Central assistance to resettle the victims on a stable footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN T MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SH ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The After-quakes have not cau any damage.

(c) No, Sir. Govt. of Manarass have provided temporary shelters in areas affected by the earthquake.

(d) The measures taken for re-setti the earthquake victims include following:—

(i) The victims were provided w food, drinking water, milk, ck utensils, medical aid, electric temporary shelters, etc.

(ii) The villages, destroyed extensiv are being relocated at safer plac

(iii) Seeds have been distributed the farmers for Rabi season.

(iv) A comprehensive rehabilitat programme has been planned w World Bank assistance in the ar of housing and infrastructure, so and economic rehabilitation, other related sectors.

Processing of paddy production

2109. SHRI BHUPINDER SIN MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICU TURE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that farm are allowed to process their own pad production to marketable rice with any licence/permit;

(b) if so, what are the conditions l down for licence/permit;

(c) if not, what are the reasons the for; and

(d) in what manner the present wo ing but outdated rice-shelling machir is efficient as compared to world-st dards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN T MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SH ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Any person, including farmers can make an application in the prescribed form for grant of permit for establishment of a rice mill by giving particulars regarding location, size and type of the rice mill and such other particulars as may be prescribed.

(d) Working of modern rice-shelling machinery at present is as efficient as available in other parts of the world except for some special equipments needed for production of export quality rice.

Supply of verified seed of cotton in Andhra Pradesh

2110. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a mixed variety of cotton crop is prevalent in Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh without coinciding with any specific variety;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are taken to supply certified seeds in that area; and

(d) what is the share of certified seed in the total consumption in those districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) There is no practice of growing mixed variety of cotton crop in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) State Government arrange for supply of certified seeds in that area largely through their State Seeds Corporation and Private Seeds Agencies.

(d) Share of certified seeds in these districts is about 30 per cent of total consumption of seed.

Adoption of orphaned children in Maharashtra

2111. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a UK-based Guru Missionary has offered to adopt children orphaned by he Maharashtra earth-quake;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Guru Nanak Blind Missionary Society, London, U.K. has offered to provide support to 25 children orphaned in the recent earthquake in Maharashtra. According to them the proposed support will include funding for education, boarding, clothing, food and general expenses involved with the upbringing of the children.

(c) The matter is under examination in consultation with Government of Maharashtra.

Creation of National Oil Grid

2112. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the N.D.D.B. had planned for creation of a National Oil Grid; and

(b) if so, what is the present state of progress in relation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NDDB has planned for Creation of a National Oil Grid.

The programme envisages linking the major oilseeds producing areas with the